

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A ~~foam comprising a~~ water-absorbing basic polymer foam obtainable prepared by

(I) foaming a crosslinkable aqueous mixture including

(a) at least one basic polymer whose basic groups have optionally been neutralized, said basic polymer free of acid monomers,

(b) at least one crosslinker,

(c) at least one surfactant,

(d) optionally at least one solubilizer,

(e) optionally thickeners, foam stabilizers, fillers, fibers, cell nucleators, and mixtures thereof and

(f) optionally particulate water-absorbing acidic polymers,

by dissolving a gas which is inert toward free radicals in the crosslinkable aqueous mixture under a pressure from 2 to 400 bar and subsequently decompressing the crosslinkable aqueous mixture to atmospheric or by dispersing fine bubbles of a gas which is inert toward free radicals, and

(II) crosslinking the foamed mixture to form a hydrogel foam and ~~if applicable~~ optionally adjusting a water content of the polymer foam to 1-60% by weight.

2. (Previously presented) The foam of claim 1 wherein the basic polymer comprises polymers containing vinylamine units, polymers containing vinylguanidine units, polymers containing dialkylaminoalkyl(meth)acrylamide units, polyethyleneimines, ethylenimine-grafted polyamidoamines, polydiallyldimethylammonium chlorides, or a mixture thereof.

3. (Previously presented) The foam of claim 1 wherein the basic polymer comprises polymers containing vinylamine units, polyvinylguanidines, polyethyleneimines, or a mixture thereof.

4. (Currently amended) The foam of claim 1 wherein the basic polymer comprises polyvinylamines and/or ~~up to~~ 10-100% hydrolyzed poly-N-vinylformamides.

5. (Previously presented) The foam of claim 1 whose surface has been postcrosslinked.

6. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ foam of claim 1 wherein the water-absorbing basic polymers additionally include finely divided water-absorbing acidic polymers, the polymer mixture including from 10 to 90% by weight of water-absorbing acidic polymers.

7. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ foam of claim 1 wherein the water-absorbing acidic polymers are crosslinked acrylic acids having a particle diameter from 10 to 2000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

8. (Currently amended) A process for producing foams comprising a water-absorbing basic polymer, which comprises

- (I) foaming a crosslinkable aqueous mixture including
  - (a) at least one basic polymer whose basic groups have optionally been neutralized, said basic polymer free of acid monomers,
  - (b) at least one crosslinker,
  - (c) at least one surfactant,
  - (d) optionally at least one solubilizer,
  - (e) optionally thickeners, foam stabilizers, fillers, fibers, cell nucleators, and mixtures thereof, and
  - (f) optionally particulate water-absorbing acidic polymers.

by dissolving a gas which is inert toward free radicals in the crosslinkable aqueous mixture under a pressure from 2 to 400 bar and subsequently decompressing the crosslinkable aqueous mixture to atmospheric or by dispersing fine bubbles of a gas which is inert toward free radicals, and

- (II) crosslinking the foamed mixture to form a hydrogel foam and if applicable optionally adjusting a water content of the polymer foam to 1-60% by weight.

9. (Previously presented) The process of claim 8 wherein from 0.05 to 20 parts by weight of an acidic water-absorbing polymer having a degree of neutralization from 0 to 75 mol% are used per part by weight of a basic polymer.

10. (Previously presented) The process of claim 8 wherein the crosslinkable aqueous mixture includes from 0.1 to 30% by weight of a hydrocarbon.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously presented) A hygiene article for absorbing body fluids comprising a foam of claim 1.

13. (Previously presented) A dressing material for covering wounds comprising a foam of claim 1.

14. (Previously presented) A sealing material comprising a foam of claim 1.

15. (Previously presented) A packaging material comprising a foam of claim 1.

16. (Previously presented) A soil improver comprising a foam of claim 1.

17. (Previously presented) A soil substitute comprising a foam of claim 1.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)